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3 Rec'd PCT/PTO 21 DEC 2001 ML

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Inventors: Kuniyuki KAJITA

Serial No.: New PCT National Stage Application

Filed: December 21, 2001

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR CODING/DECODING

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

5. (Amended) A decoding apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a deleting means for deleting, when a known data exists in a code block subjected to error correcting decoding, the known data.

6. (Amended) A decoding apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said error correcting decoding means replaces a soft decision value of the part of the known data of a code block with a maximum value of the soft decision value when the known data is 0 and replaces with a minimum value of the soft decision value when the known data is 1 and carries out error correcting decoding of the known data using the replaced soft decision value.

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